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No. II.

NEW MODE OF EMBOSSING ON WOOD.

The SILVER ISIS MEDAL and TEN GUINEAS were this session presented to Mr. J. STRAKER, Redcross-square, Cripplegate, for a method of producing EMBOSSED DESIGNS ON WOOD. Specimens of the same were laid before the Society, and have been placed in the repository.

RAISED figures on wood, such as are employed in picture frames and other articles of ornamental cabinet work, are produced by means of carving, or by casting the pattern in Paris plaster or other composition, and cementing or otherwise fixing it on the surface of the wood. The former mode is expensive; the latter is inapplicable on many occasions.

The invention of Mr. Straker may be used either by itself or in aid of carving; and depends on the fact, that if a depression be made by a blunt instrument on the surface of wood, such depressed part will again rise to its original level by subsequent immersion in water.

The wood to be ornamented having first been worked out to its proposed shape, is in a state to receive the drawing of the pattern; this being put in, a blunt steel tool, or burnisher, or die, is to be applied successively to all those parts of the pattern intended to be in relief, and at the same time is to be driven very cautiously, without breaking the grain of the wood, till the depth of the depression is equal to the subsequent prominence of the

figures. The ground is then to be reduced by planing or filing to the level of the depressed part; after which, the piece of wood being placed in water, either hot or cold, the parts previously depressed will rise to their former height, and will thus form an embossed pattern, which may be finished by the usual operations of carving.

No. III.

ENGRAVING ON STEEL PLATE.

IN the 41st volume of the Society's Transactions will be found a paper drawn up chiefly from information furnished by the late Mr. C. Warren, on the art of engraving on steel plate as distinguished from engraving on blocks of steel, which latter process was first reduced to practical utility by the skill of Mr. Perkins. The subject was again brought before the Society, during the last session, by an interesting communication from Mr. Turrell on the best menstruum for biting-in on softened or decarbonized steel, which communication is inserted in the present volume. The attention of the Society having been thus in an especial manner directed to the subject of engraving on steel, it was with great satisfaction that they found themselves enabled, through the liberality of R. H. Solly, Esq., one of the chairmen of the Committee of Polite Arts, to present to each member, together with the 42d volume, an impression from a decarbonized steel plate of a subject